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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is believed proper since no new issues are being raised which would require the Examiner's further consideration and/or search.

Claims 1-20 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 10-11, 14-16 and 20 have been amended to more particularly define the claimed invention.

It is noted that the amendments are made only to more particularly define the invention and **not** for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, for narrowing the scope of the claims, or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability. It is further noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

Claims 10 and 14-16 are objected to due to informalities and Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner.

Independent claims 1, 11 and 20 have been amended to more accurately define the term "reference position," since the definition of the term "vertex" is *a corner of an angle*. Therefore, each of the independent claims have been amended to recite, "*a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of said concave portion and said convex portion*," to be more consistent with Applicant's drawings and Specification.

Claims 1, 6-8, 11, 14-16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185, further in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527.

Claims 2-4 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527, further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. APPLICANT'S CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention, as defined, for example, by independent claim 1, (and similarly independent claims 11 and 20) is directed to an electronic equipment including a display device configured to display information and including a display surface, a touch sensor arranged on at least a part of the display surface, a guide portion configured to protrude from a surface of the touch sensor and to fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, including a reference position on a surface of the touch sensor located between a vertex and a center of one of the concave portion and the convex portion, and a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along the guide portion from the reference position.

Conventionally, in tactile display input devices, a problem exists that a reference position of an operation for specifying a reference value for increasing or decreasing that amount of an adjustment value controlled by depression of the touch sensor from a present value cannot be identified. A direction in which the touch switch part is traced can be detected, but the amount of change in increase or decrease from the reference value can not be set, nor can the amount of change in increase or decrease from the reference value could be set. (Specification at page 2, line 15 to page 3, line 8.)

The claimed invention (e.g., as recited in claims 1, 11 and 20), on the other hand, includes *a guide portion configured to ... fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a*

concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, and *a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position*. These features are important for setting the amount of change in increase or decrease from a reference value with respect to an adjustment value controlled by depression of a touch sensor on the display surface. (Specification at page 3, lines 11-15.)

II. THE ALLEGED PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 further in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185, (Stephan), further in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527, (Debrus), makes obvious the invention of claims 1, 6-8, 11, 14-16 and 20.

Applicant submits, however, that Stephan in view of Debrus does not teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole,...*" and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position.*"

Stephan merely discloses adjusting an adjustment value by a slide operation and fails to disclose the claimed guide portion as admitted in the Final Office Action at page 3, 4th paragraph.

Debrus merely discloses adjusting an adjustment value by a slide operation wholly along switching segments 21 to 31 each having a U-shape (Fig. 1). Therefore, whole switching segments 21 to 31 are used for adjusting the adjustment value. Thus, Debrus fails to teach or suggest the claimed *guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line*

configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references (alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each and every element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

B. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527 further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527, (Vanderheiden), further in view of Serravalle, Jr., U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,525, (Serravalle), makes obvious the invention of claims 2-4 and 17-19.

Applicant submits, however, that Stephan in view of Debrus does not teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole*, ..." and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position*," as claimed in Applicant's independent claim 1, and similarly in Applicant's claims 11 and 20.

Vanderheiden discloses a linearly arrayed series of small embossed as 154 on the left side of a frame 152 adjacent to a display area 14 used to locate virtual buttons 46' allowing rapid scanning upward and downward within the virtual buttons. Vanderheiden fails to teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole*, ..." and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position*." Therefore, Vanderheiden fails to overcome the

deficiencies of Stefan and Debrus.

Serravalle discloses a digital figure having linearly configured slidable operating means such as a touch-sensitive strip manually operable to different settings that are represented by a digital signal. Serravalle fails to teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole,...*" and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position.*" Therefore, Serravalle fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stefan and Debrus.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references (alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each and every element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

C. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527 further in view of Vanderheiden, U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,328

The Examiner alleges that Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527 further in view of Vanderheiden, U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,328, makes obvious the invention of claim 5.

Applicant submits, however, that Stephan in view of Debrus does not teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole,...*" and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position,*" as claimed in Applicant's independent claim 1, and similarly in Applicant's claims 11 and 20.

Vanderheiden discloses a linearly arrayed series of small embossed as 154 on the left side of a frame 152 adjacent to a display area 14 used to locate virtual buttons 46' allowing rapid scanning upward and downward within the virtual buttons. Vanderheiden fails to teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole,...*" and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position.*" Therefore, Vanderheiden fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stefan and Debrus.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references (alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each and every element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

D. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection over Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527 further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341

The Examiner alleges Stephan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,748,185 in view of Debrus, U.S. Pat. No. 5,598,527 further in view of Gillespie et al., U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0024341, makes obvious the invention of claims 9-10 and 12-13.

Applicant submits, however, that Stephan in view of Debrus does not teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to...fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole,...*" and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position,*" as claimed in Applicant's independent claim 1, and similarly in Applicant's claims 11 and 20.

Gillespie discloses a graphical user interface comprising a touchscreen having a plurality of icons associated with user selectable operations on the touchscreen. Gillespie fails to teach or suggest, "*a guide portion configured to ... fringe the surface with a line configured by one of a concave portion and a convex portion as a whole, ...*" and "*a controller configured to control an adjustment value in accordance with a direction of a slide operation along said guide portion from the reference position.*" Therefore, Gillespie fails to overcome the deficiencies of Stefan and Debrus.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection since the alleged prior art references (alone or in combination) fail to teach or suggest each and every element and feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-20, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: February 23, 2007

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 the enclosed Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 to Examiner BODDIE, Art Unit 2629, on February 23, 2007.

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